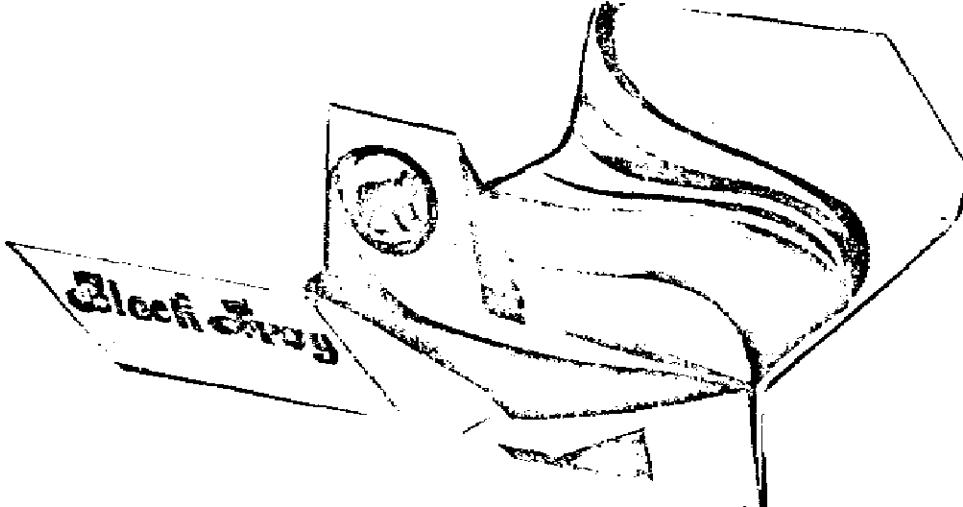




Black Frog

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HALLOWEEN ISSUE
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BLACK FROG, the #1 Leeder Poll 'zine for 1981, is a Diplomacy 'zine that emphasizes that postal Diplomacy is fun to play! The publisher is John H. ('Jack') Masters, 25711 N. Vista Fairways Drive, Valencia, CA 91355. (805) 259-2811. Subscriptions to BF are 60¢ per issue. Subs will not be taken past BF #64. New subbers are not encouraged.

BF features postal Diplomacy with game results usually carried in a sister 'zine entitled East of Eden. Diplomacy is the registered trade mark of a multi-player world-war 1 game invented by Allen Calhamer and currently owned by Avalon Hill, Inc.

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50¢ WORTH OF GOOD ADVICE

On work mornings, I am getting out of bed at 4:15, leave home at 4:45 and (if I am lucky) I arrive at the Park Pantry restaurant in Norwalk at 6:00, just as it opens. I have time for a quick breakfast and a quick readthrough of the L.A. Times, before starting to work around the corner at 6:30.

Last week as I was going through this breakfast routine, my concentration on the sports page was disturbed by the presence of somebody on the stool next to me. Since there were all kinds of empty stools, I was more than a little annoyed that this guy should take the one right next to me. I looked up at him to find a very old, weathered-looking, little old man. He was staring right in my face.

"Hey Mac," he started (he had to be addressing me as I was the only one there and he was staring me right in the face) "could I get you to buy me a cup of coffee?"

What a great way to start the morning I thought as I wondered what I was going to get out of this one.

"I'm not looking for a freebie," he added. "But, if you will buy me a cup of coffee, I'll give you some good advise."

The guy looked like he had spent most of his life, at least 70 years, out on the desert. Maybe he had some good advise. "Coffee is fifty cents," I said. "Do you think your advise is worth that?"

"Oh, certainly," he replied. "It's worth a lot more than that, but this morning I am willing to let it go for a cup of coffee."

I motioned for the waitress to bring him a cup of coffee. He put more sugar in the cup than I would have thought possible, stirred it slowly and then slowly sipped it. I watched him for a few short seconds and then went back to reading the morning line football spreads.

"Never try to teach a pig to sing!" His words came at me unexpected while I was reading; I had almost forgotten that I had 50¢ worth of good advise coming.

"And why not?" I asked.

"In the first place you'll never succeed," he said. "And in the second place, if you try all you will do is make him angry as hell."

To be honest it was much later in the day until his advise sunk in. Before leaving, I bought him a cinnamon roll to go with his coffee and asked him his name.

To this question, he replied, "Mojave Mac". But, I am not sure if he meant his name was "Mojave Mac" or whether it was just "Mojave" and he was addressing me once again as "Mac".

Anyway, dear subscriber, I am passing along 50¢ worth of good advise to you. (Your net cost of this issue of BF will be 10¢).

Mohave Mac's advise, Black Jacks version:

NEVER TRY TO TEACH YOUR WIFE TO PLAY DIPLOMACY

..... YOU'LL NEVER SUCCEED, AND SHE WILL HATE

YOU, AND THE HOBBY, ALL THE MORE FOR YOUR TRY-
ING.

HUGE GAINS FOR FRENCH/ITALIAN ALLIANCE AS
GERMANY FINALLY GOES OUT !!

ENGL (J. Townsend) F NWN-Edi; F Nwy-Lon/imp, nsu/; F HEL
(s) A Den-Kie; A Den-KIE; F NTH(h)/unordered/.

FRAN (Gallagher) A TYO(s)A Bur-Mun; A Bur-MUN; F Tun-ION;
F Ion-GRE; F Yor-EDI; F Bre-ENG; A RUH(s)A Bur-Mun;
A HOL-Kie; A BEL(s)A Hol.

GERM (Rodriguez) A Kie(h)/annihilated/

ITAL (Langley) A GAL-Boh; A RUM-Bul; A Tri-VIE; F ADR &
F TYR(s)FRENCH F Tun-Ion; A ALB & A SER(s)FRENCH F
Ion-Gre.

RUSS (Conner) F SEV-Rum; A WAR-Gal; F NWY(h); F BAL(s)
ENGLISH A Den-Kie; A SWE(s)F Nwy; A Mun(s) ENGLISH
A Den-Kie/dislodged & must retreat to Silesia or
OTB/; A BER(s)A Mun; A BOH(s)A Mun.

TURK (Brown) A BUL-Rum; A Gre-Bul/annihilated/; F Con-
ANK; A Aeg-CON; F Eas-AEG.

1906 Supply Center Chart

ENG: Lon, Lpl, Den, ~~NWY~~, KIE (4) even
FRA: Home, Bel, Hol, Por, Spa, Tun, Edi, MUN, GRE
..... (11) build 2
GER: ~~KIE~~ (0) out
ITA: Home, Austria, RUM, Ser (8) build .. 1
RUS: Home, Ber, Swe, ~~RUM~~, ~~NWY~~, NWY (7) ..disband 1
TUR: Home, Bul, ~~Gre~~ .. (4) even

Winter 1906 orders will be due on Thursday November
12th at 12:00 noon PST.

Note! The English order was clearly written F Norway
- London. I think it is probable that Townsend meant F
North Sea to London. Things like this happen very rarely
in BF games. If possible, I try to apply NMR insurance to
them. (If a player has NMR insurance it insures all of
his units--so I will phone even if I have no orders for
only one unit--which is the case here, I had no orders for
the English F in the North Sea.) However I am unable to
get ahold of Jim Townsend and due to pressures this coming
weekend, I cannot delay typing up the adjudications. Thus
the order written.

Pestilence Press:

BLACK JACK to WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: I would much appreciate it when you send in orders for two games at the same time, that you send them on seperate sheets of paper. Thank you!

SULTAN BROWN to PRINCE OF ROME: Prince of Rome? Prince of Hell you mean! Supporting France into Greece is an evil, nasty, terrible thing to do!

PRINCE OF ROME to KING OF FRANCE: The die is cast. We are the aggressive minority. What say we catch a couple of dots and become the aggressive majority?

PRINCE OF ROME to SULTAN ALI PASHA BROWN: The Czar's
pressure swung the balance.

PRINCE OF ROME to CEAR MIKE: Considering how much work I put into all this, I'm probably more upset about how it all worked out than you are. A failure in Diplomacy is always hard to face.

In the file folder for 81CD, I found Jim Towsends corrected orders for 80NU. He discovered his error and ordered F Nth to Lon. However, he also had orders for 81CD on this paper and I had filed it with 81CD. You all now know who "whom it may concern is" and you know why I like seperate pages of paper when you are submitting orders for two games at the same time. Anyway correct the English order in the game to:

F Nth-LON

AUST: (James Townsend) A VIE-Tri; A BUD(s) A Vie-Tri; A Sev-RUM; F ALB-Gre.

ENGL: (Beck) A NWY(h); F ENG(h); F NTH(s)F ENG; A Bel(h)/
dislodged & must retreat Ruh or OTB.

FRAN: (Langley) F Mao-NAO; F Spa(sc)-MAO; F BRE(s)F Spa-mao; A Gas-BUR; A Pic-BEL.

GERM: (Albrecht) A Sil-WAR; A MUN(h); F Bal-SWE; F DEN(s)
F Bal-Swe: A HOL(s) FRENCH A Pic-Bel.

ITAL: (Sherwood) F TUN-Ton; F ION-Gre; A TYO(s)A Tri-Vie;

Friday A.M. October 30th, 1981:

My father-in-law had a heart attack in Palm Springs yesterday. My wife and the two boys went out there this morning. This is going to be a hectic weekend. I will have to get things together for a ftf dipcon that I am holding here tomorrow, get out the game adjudications for four games, take care of some other business items today, and then tomorrow night, after the con, drive to Palm Springs myself.

This is going to be a rather short and abbreviated issue. I had intended on getting a full issue of BF and an issue of East of Eden out this weekend. Instead I am going to combine them into this issue. If possible another issue will go out next week. Sorry about the hurried issue.

TRADES DROPPED

Effective with this issue, I am dropping the following trades:

The White Duke: Steve Shaddix

St. George & the Dragon: Bob Sergeant

Life of Monty: Don del Grande

Bushwacker: Fred Davis

This is in addition to some other trades that I have dropped in the last couple of months. With only a very few exceptions, I am retaining only those traders with a game connection. I am playing a game in their 'zine or they are playing a game in mine.

BEYERLEIN PLAYER POLL

The Beyerlein Player Poll (BPP) is a rating of the top currently-active postal Diplomacy players by the Diplomacy community. This poll is conducted in the same manner as the AP and UPI collegiate sports polls. Votes are solicited, collected, tabulated, and the scores of the top 14 players published on an annual basis.

Doug Beyerlein, who conducted eight of these polls between 1971 and 1975, is going to restart the BPP and will publish the results in Diplomacy World. Results can also be received for a stamped, self-addressed envelope sent to Doug. Results will be distributed on 31 March 1982.

To participate in the BPP, make a list of the top 14 currently-active postal Diplomacy players, playing in

regular games. The list should be based on personal experience, games observed, reputation, ratings, etc. List the players from number one to number 14. Sign the list and send it to Doug Beyerlein, 640 College, Menlo Park, CA 94025. The deadline for EPP # 9 is February 15th, 1982.

For your convenience, I have prepared a ballot that you may use to send in your votes.



2ND ANNUAL WHITESONIA PLAYERS POLL

John Caruso has announced the 2nd annual Whitestonia player poll. Players are asked to vote for their fellow hobbyists in three categories, Regular Diplomacy Player; Variant Player; and Article Writer.

You may vote for three in each category. Place the votes in order with the 1st being your favorite, 2nd being #2, etc. You may not vote for yourself. ((John added in this rule this year after Mark Lew voted for himself in all three categories last year)).

Please note that "Variant" refers to "variant-diplomacy player" (a player of variant games) and not "variant diplomacy-player".

All votes are due to John Caruso, at 160-02 43rd Ave., Flushing, New York by November 22nd, 1981.

This is not much time, a ballot is enclosed for your convenience. I suggest that you fill it out and mail it in today.

Last years results; Whitestonia players poll:

	<u>Best player</u>	<u>Best Var-player</u>	<u>Best Writer</u>
1.	Randolph Smyth	Fred Hyatt	Jack Masters
2.	Kathy Byrne	Vern Schaller	Gary Coughlan
3.	Ron Kelly	Phil Cooper	Steve Heinowski
4.	Don Ditter	Lee Kendter, Sr.	Dave Perlmutter
5.	13-way tie*	Karl Schuetz	9-way tie**

*Jerry St. Germain, Al Pearson, Greg Haskew, Mark Fassio, George Bakish, Mark Lew, Dick Martin, Bill Hart, Bob Arnett, Bob Sergeant, Dave White, Phyllis Byrne, Mr. X (=Bern Sampson).

**Dave White, Mark Fassio, Rod Walker, Bob Sergeant, John Boardman, Bernie Oaklyn, Mark Lew, Randolph Smyth,

A TRI-Vie; A VEN-Tri.

RUSS: (Manuel) A MOS-Sev; A Rum(s)A Mos-Sev/dislodged & must retreat Ukr or OTB/; A Ukr-GAL; F COB-Sve.
TURK: (Gallagher) A SER(s)AUSTRIAN A Sev-Rum; F BUL(ec) (s)AUSTRIAN A Sev-Rum; F BLA(s)A Arm-Sev; A Arm-SEV.

1902 Supply Center Chart

AUS: Bud, Vie, Gre, ~~Sty~~, RUM (4) even
ENG: Home, ~~Bel~~, Nwy (4) even*
FRA: Home, BEL, Por, Spa (6) build 1
GER: Home, Den, Hol, SWE, WAR (7) . build 2
ITA: Home, Tri, Tun (5) even
RUS: ~~Wat~~, Stp, Mos, ~~Ran~~ (2) remove ... 2
TUR: Home, Ser, SEV, BUL (6) build 2

* Or build one if A Bel retreats OTB.

Winter 1902 orders are due on November 12th, 1981
at 12:00 Noon PST.

Press:

TURKEY to AUSTRIA: You were right about the order error!

TURKEY to ITALY: Your efforts at Diplomacy are a thin veneer, covering only the most base of motives, I think.

TURKEY to RUSSIA: Einie, meenie, Minie, Moe, catch a center by the toe, if he hollars GRAB another one. I know that doesn't rhyme, but that's the way it goes.

TURKEY to GERMANY: Which chunks of Russia are you interested in annexing to the German Empire?

RUSSIA to AUSTRO/TURKISH ALLIANCE: Bullshit! You shall not pass!!!!

ST PETERSBURGH to BERLIN: You really know how to irritate a guy.

ST PETERSBURGH to ROME: Don't listen to those guys! They're bigger babblers than me!

ROME to GERMANY, AUSTRIA & TURKEY: That's really unkind, guys: To pick on a poor little 14 year old. In case you didn't know, Dave is a scrawny little kid with MS, and he's lost it in his heart.

ROME to BUDAPEST: Oops, hit the ball into the net.

ITALY: Okay, last time I played it safe and it cost me. This time I'm risking it all. Did I crap out?//No, only the same result as when you played it safe!//

ITALY to FRANCE: You're the only person on the board I haven't managed to piss off. What did I do wrong.

ITALY to RUSSIA: The things I do for you.

BERLIN to ROME: Some days you can believe me and some days you can't. But, please, remember that you were the one who introduced this game to me in Tyrolia.

LONDON to PARIS: I don't need any help evacuating my homeland thank you. Nor do I dance. Instead of visiting us, why not invite me down to your villa in the south of Spain or Portugal? Then maybe we could discuss the situation. I mean ... REALLY!!

FRENCHIE to TRO: If you are sitting in Piedmont now, you succeeded in fooling everyone, and, you can kiss Trieste goodbye.

FRENCHIE to GERMANY: If I am sitting in Belgium and you are in control of Sweden, then once again this game has shown that appearance is not to be trusted. If I am not in Belgium, the same is true.

FRENCHIE to QUEENIE: Upon learning that he was the object of Queen Mary's passion, the French heir was heard to say, "Zot Alors, but of course. This English Queen is a true woman, could she choose any other.

1980KJ

VTP

W'05

JUST A WINTER INTERLUDE!

FRAN (Ron Brown) Builds F Brest and F Marseilles

GERM (Dave Pilant) A London retreats to Liverpool

RUSS (Allen Wells) Builds A Saint Petersburg

Spring 1906 orders are due on November 12th at
12:00 noon PST.